



ALUMNAE NEWS

Summer 2024

TOGA Reunion 2024

Celebrating Connections, Achievements, and Making Memories



In June, over 100 alumnae gathered to reminisce, share stories, tour the old and current school sites, enjoy tea, and sing the school song. It is our goal is to build lasting relationships with former students and staff and to ensure they know they belong to a special community with a lifelong connection to the school.

IN THIS ISSUE

Reunion Stories

Alumnae News

School News

Careers Fair

Coming up



REUNION STORIES

Janice Kent (Rees)

Janice joined The Tiffin Girls' School in 1985 as a newly qualified teacher of French. Then, as Miss Rees, she taught in the old school building next to the current school premises (now The Kingston Academy).

Here, she recounts her afternoon at the TOGA Reunion in June and how she enjoyed rekindling relationships with former staff and with one form group in particular.

“From a staff perspective, the TOGA reunion was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet former pupils as well as to rekindle friendships with former colleagues. Most of the staff attending the reunion had taught on the former site and were very excited to find out that there would be a special tour of the old building at 1pm, before the main reunion at 2pm. Staff on the tour were Jane Peters (Miss Smith, Head of English), Roger Carpenter (IT), Gill Carpenter (Miss Saldanha, maths) and Brenda Day (biology) as well as myself. We all met in the hall, which brought back many memories of assemblies and the Headteacher at that time, Dr. Nicolle.

“We enjoyed revisiting the beautiful quad and remembered sitting there sometimes on a sunny day next to the former pond, marking books (but also chatting and sunbathing!) The current drama studio upstairs at the front of the building was our workroom. All departments sat together in rows at small wooden Victorian-style desks or bureaux to plan their lessons or write reports. It was actually a great way to get to know the whole staff and very sociable - although it was meant to be the quiet room!



REUNION STORIES (CONT.)

“We also remembered the former library downstairs at the front (now an IT room) where Mrs. Peters used to escape for peace and quiet and to read her favourite books. Mr Carpenter reminded us that there was a small staffroom upstairs too, where teachers were able to eat their lunch (or smoke!) I remembered meeting the rest of the Modern Languages Department there on my interview day. The Headteacher of the Kingston Academy, Sophie Cavanagh, is a former pupil of TTGS, so it was lovely to meet her again and we really appreciated her organising the tour of the building for us and former students.

“At 2pm, we all walked across to the current site with great excitement. The previous day the school had sent out a list of former pupils who would be attending - we recognised many names and couldn't wait to meet up with them again. We had a wonderful afternoon reminiscing and finding out what they were doing now. A couple of other staff joined us at this stage, including Sue Urquhart who still teaches maths at the school and Julia Topp who was a biology teacher in the 1990s.

“As usual, the school had organised everything perfectly, including the tours and excellent musical entertainment (by current students), memorabilia, delicious food, hot and cold drinks, and of course a rousing rendition of the school song at the end. All the staff were bowled over by the event and said to me afterwards how special it was to meet so many former pupils. On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank the school for organising these special reunions and the chance to reconnect with former staff and pupils. We are already looking forward to the next one! “



REUNION STORIES

Iris James (Page) 1940-1945

We were once again delighted to be joined by Iris James at the celebration in June. Iris *left* the school 78 years ago!

Iris was joined by her daughter Allisyn and has so many interesting memories to share especially about the school during the war.

She represented School in hockey, tennis and county sports. She took the school certificate and got Matriculation Exemption.

She remembers that Faith Watson retired and went to the USA and how Miss Schofield died tragically at school. She also told us how Miss Orford took money collected for the school swimming pool and used it for the library which was very controversial at the time.

She also told us that there were air raid shelters on the left of the old school looking from Richmond Road, remembering when V2 rocket landed in Park Road very near where they were lining up to go to the shelters during the school day!



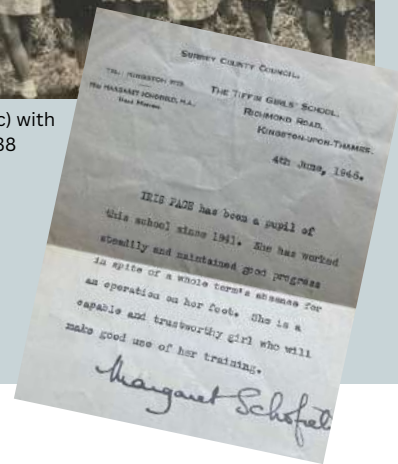
Iris then...



and now



Iris (in dark tunic) with local friends 1938



Three Generations of Tiffin Girls

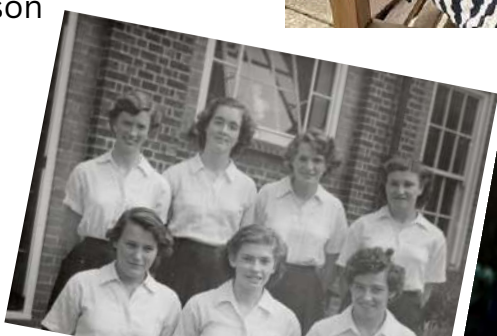
“Our family think we are pretty unique (but maybe not!). We are three generations of Tiffin girls. We were delighted to attend the reunion together.

“As Mary Bell, I was at the school from 1948 - 1954 under Evelyn Orford. My daughter Joanna Pink was a pupil 1976 - 1982 and her daughter, my granddaughter, Hetty Hopkinson 1998 - 2016.”



Left to right:
Mary in the Netball VII 1950-51; Jo with the school cup; Hetty holding cup and medal

Above: All three in the quad of the 'old' school at the TOGA reunion



REUNION STORIES AND MEMORIES

The TOGA reunion was packed full of reminiscences as we made new memories together.

Why not join our online community at community.tiffingirls.org to share your stories, pictures and videos and to view galleries of our alumnae events and activities.



Gina Simpson (Gallogly) 1954-1960

While I was not able to attend the TOGA Reunion, and possibly meet up with some Old Tiffinians of my era I was most interested to read the article in Alumnae News this Spring about Professor Christine Lee, as I was in the same class up until the sixth form, which I only attended for just one year (to re-sit some GCEs!).

However I was also part of the French exchange mentioned by Christine and can well remember staying in a French school in Paris and thoroughly enjoying the experience.

Another memorable school trip was to Hamble in Hampshire from where we went boating on Hamble River - I was already a keen competitive swimmer and canoeist but this was my first sailing experience and I went on to enjoy sailing and in due course racing a variety of dinghies and larger vessels for many years.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF "WOULD BE" SAILORS FROM TIFFINS

ON HAMBLE RIVER, HAMPSHIRE – year unknown

Those shown include:

Jane Caplin, Carole Spurdon, Clare Carlton, Bronwen Griffiths, Gina Gallogly and Christine Lee

Can you fill in the gaps?



ALUMNAE NEWS



Kingston Dragon Boat Race 2024

Congratulations to the dragon boat challenge team, the 'Tiffin Titans' who competed in the Kingston race on 21 July raising £1,000 towards the refurbishment of the changing rooms.

The team was an impressive collaborative effort of parents and alumnae. The alumnae who participated were Vedika Parulkar (2014-2021), Margi Moutou (1994-1996) - also a parent at the school, Emma Plummer (1981-1988), and reserve Silka Battacharya (2014-2021).

Our thanks go to TOGA for sponsoring the cost of hiring the boat and a professional helm. The team are already looking forward to competing again next year. If you'd like to get involved contact alumnae@tiffingirls.org



Vedika, Silka and Emma at the race in July



New baby

TOGA committee member, Louise Gu (2002-2004) has announced the birth of daughter, Sophia Florence Alice Mason born on 3 July. Mother and baby are well and we send our fondest congratulations to the family.



Career Update

Maureen Mather (Bantin) 1978-1983 has announced that, after 21 year of teaching music in primary schools, she will be taking up a new post as Vocal Development Lead for Surrey Arts and will be promoting singing all over the country.

OBITUARY

Christine Kennett (nee Minns) 18th June 1931 – 5th August 2023



Nick Kennett recently shared with us the news of the passing of his mother, Tiffin Girls' alumna, Christine Kennett (nee Minns).

Here, he shares some wonderful memories which feature stories of her time at the school.



“Christine was a proud student of The Tiffin Girls' School during and just after the War.

She threw herself into many school activities and represented the school in numerous sports - hockey (as left inner), rounders and netball, although her sports of choice were tennis and badminton.

School days were disrupted by the war, with her diary from 1944 showing that school was closed on occasions due to doodlebug (V1) rockets. Christine also talked of the fun she had going to Bentalls in Kingston after school with her friends.

Christine joined the sixth form, but then decided that the world of work called, and she took the civil service exams and joined the Board of Trade as a statistician. She enjoyed her work and it inspired her to study for her A levels at evening classes. She was granted leave by the ministry to go on to university, unusual for a woman at the time.

Christine loved her time at the London School of Economics and threw herself into university and London life. She captained the Ladies Badminton Club and gained a 2:1 in geography, despite her father dying during her finals. She then returned to work in the Civil Service.

Whilst at LSE, Christine met her husband-to-be, Peter Kennett. After a long courtship, while he qualified as an accountant, they were married in 1957. Marriage meant leaving the Civil Service, but Christine did not want to stop working. She combined family life (three children) in Highgate, north London, with being the European representative of a South American book business.

OBITUARY Christine Kennett (nee Minns) continued



In the 1960/70s being a working mother was still fairly ground breaking and Christine featured in a number of newspaper articles.

Unfortunately, in the 1970s she began to feel a fatigue and heaviness to her legs and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Doctors told her she would be wheelchair bound and there was little they could do to help.

This did not deter Christine. She threw herself into finding alternative medicines that might help, where conventional medicine was unable. It took over 40 years until the wheelchair became necessary, during which time there were still games of tennis, body boarding in Cornwall, trips around the world and passing her Grade 8 piano in her 70s.

During the 1990s she branched into new areas of activity and gave lectures on opera at the adult education centre at Great Missenden Abbey, Buckinghamshire. Together with Peter, opera had been a source of great enjoyment, and they rarely missed a production in London and elsewhere.

The later years of Christine's life were blessed with having her children and grandchildren relatively nearby. She survived her husband of more than 65 years, by less than eight months. Christine's was a life full led, with great determination and love. Her battle with MS was tireless and remarkable. **An inspiration to all who knew her."**

A THANK YOU

We said a formal 'thank you' to former chair of the TOGA committee, Frances Andrew (Lally), at our June event.

Frances is not only a former student but is also a former member of staff here at the school. She stood down following a fantastic promotion to head of the computing department at Nonsuch School.

Frances is a font of knowledge when it comes to all things Tiffin Girls' having organised reunions, newsletters, merchandise (and countless cups of tea!). We are delighted she will continue to be involved in our future events. Thank you Frances.



SCHOOL NEWS



Student Giving

Our students understand the tradition of charitable giving that exists here at The Tiffin Girls' School. They see that it is powerful, motivating and rewarding.

It strengthens their personal values, facilitates social connections and promotes wellbeing, happiness and productivity. They see that it is a privilege to help improve the lives of others.

Wimbledon Ball Girls

13 students took to the courts at the Wimbledon Championships following a rigorous and lengthy selection process.

We were extremely proud of the way they represented the school at the tournament.

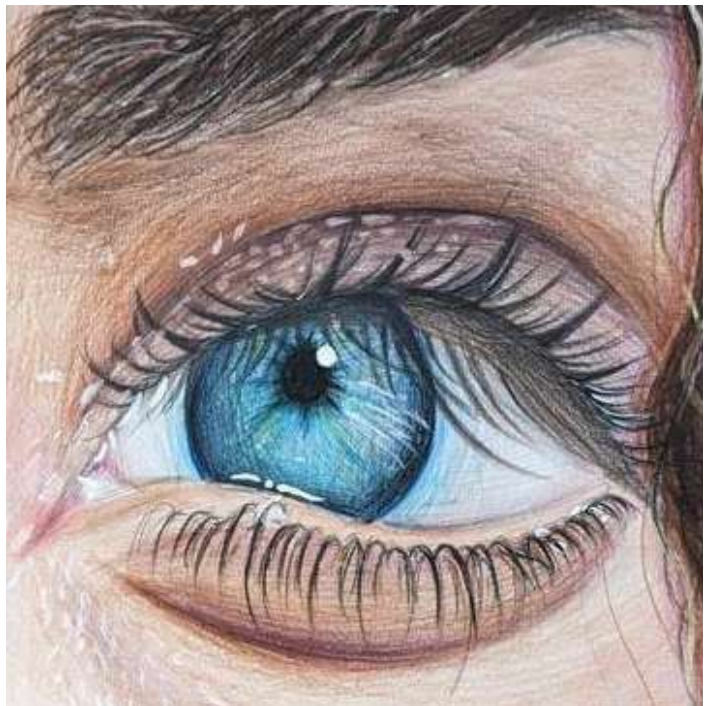


Equality, Diversity and Inclusion



A Year 8 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team presented ideas on how to diversify the fan base for Chelsea Women FC to a panel at Stamford Bridge. They won the competition and are now the founding members of the Youth Supporters' Group.

I-Witness



The work of Year 8 Vasu was selected for the summer exhibition at OXO Tower, London.

MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOL



Join our community choir

Our community chamber choir for all adults connected with the school; parents, alumnae, staff and governors are all welcome.

There's no requirement to be able to read music; all we ask is that you enjoy singing with others and can commit to regular rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, 6-7.30pm.

Any voice type welcome; rehearsals are in P02 and there are always biscuits available. We return in September. Contact a.meryon@tiffingirls.org



Archives

We know that our time at The Tiffin Girls' School is just one chapter in its remarkable story. We are always keen to hear, and share, your stories and see pictures or footage of days gone by.

Please do send any material to alumnae@tiffingirls.org



Reunions

As mentioned in our earlier features, we aim to make sure that all former students have the opportunity to come together, to network, to reminisce and to simply connect with others who share the experience of being a Tiffin girl.

If you would like to arrange a celebration from graduation to 10 year anniversaries, please reach out.



Exam certificates - Message from Ms Cooper

We still have many uncollected exam certificates in the exams office. At some point in the future you will need to produce these.

You can come into school to collect them or someone else can do this on your behalf with written permission via email in advance. Please email j.cooper@tiffingirls.org to make your arrangements. (Note: we return to school on 2 September)

Naia Edwards - Development Manager

n.edwards@tiffingirls.org

GET INVOLVED

Careers Fair 2024



We are excited to announce that our school will be hosting its inaugural Careers Fair on **Thurs 7 November, 6:30-8:30pm**.

This event is an excellent opportunity for students, parents and alumnae to explore a variety of career paths and engage with members of our school community about their professional experiences. The event will feature a series of presentations scheduled either concurrently with or immediately following the fair.

Full details and invitations will be shared nearer the date. In the meantime, we are reaching out to alumnae who might be interested in representing their career or organisation with a stand in the main hall.

If you would like to participate by having a stand at the Careers Fair, please complete this [form](#). While we aim to showcase a diverse range of careers, please note that we may not be able to accommodate all who express interest.

If you are also willing to give a presentation, kindly indicate this on the form as well.



From the Head Girl Team

Contact: headgirlteam@tiffingirls.org

Eco Conference



Next academic year, we will be running two eco conferences:

- **Thursday 21st November 2024** (for local secondary schools)
- **Tuesday 4th February 2025** (for local primary schools)

We would love you to be involved! We are looking for people who work in the green sector and would be interested in giving a talk at either of the eco conferences. If that is you, please fill out the google form [here](#). If you are unable to give a talk but would like to help the school become more eco-friendly please do contact us.

Medics' Conference

We are also looking for medical students, doctors and dentists to speak at our next medics conference on the **20th March 2025**. We're hoping to provide students with valuable insight into the life of a medical professional as well as the chance to learn more about how to prepare for the application process (UCAT, personal statement etc). Please contact us with the stage of your career by the end of October and we will be in touch by the end of December.



STAY CONNECTED

Upcoming Events - 2024-25

26 September	GCSE and A-Level Art Show
7 November	Careers Fair
20 November	Autumn Concert
21 November	Eco Conference
27 November	TiffinTalk
18 December	Carol Service, St Luke's Church
4 February	Eco Conference
28 June 2025	30 year reunion (Class of '95)

Young Alums

Our Year 13s ended their time at The Tiffin Girls' School with the customary 'leavers' day' complete with bouncy castle, quilts, yearbooks and ice cream van. They subsequently completed their A-Levels and we congratulate them all on their excellent results.

Most of the students have been here at school for the the past seven years and it is our privilege to now welcome so many of them to our alumnae network.

Here, we hope you will find camaraderie, community, mentoring and support from those who have gone before and who have 'dared to be wise'.

Please do sign up, build your profiles and keep in touch at community.tiffingirls.org



Young Alums committee

We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in joining our Young Alums group to organise uni support, career networking and social get togethers. Please contact alumnae@tiffingirls.org to get involved.



Wear it with pride!



We currently have a limited number of hoodies in stock and will shortly place another order. They are available in all sizes and cost £35. They come with or without the streamline 'We Dare to be Wise'. Please register your interest using this simple form [here](#)

SUPPORT US

Making a difference



Donations are a vital and valued form of funding for the school.

Support The Tiffin Girls' School Company (STGSC) is an independent registered charity (number 1069969) which was set up in 1998 to raise funds to improve and expand educational facilities and opportunities at the school, and support the health and welfare of the students, so they may fully realise their potential.

In an increasingly challenging economic environment, support is needed more than ever before.

[Click here](#) to see the difference donations make to the school.

Thanks to your donations STGSC has committed £95,000 funding for the complete refurbishment of the upstairs changing rooms. The clean, private, safe space is designed to remove barriers to participation in sport. The work will take place in October 2024.



Thank you to all our donors for your continued support. You really are making a difference.



GIVE ONLINE

Donate via PayPal or credit/debit card
[Here](#)



SET UP A REGULAR DONATION

Download our donation form
[Here](#)



GIFT AID IT
[Gift Aid form Here](#)



CONTACT US

For an informal chat on ways to give
[Here](#)

Does your company offer matched funding?

Many companies will match the money that employees donate or raise for charity. One London state school raised £40,000 in matched funding alone last year. You can find a list of 175 companies which are just some companies that offer matched funding [here](#). Please check whether your company offers such a programme or would be willing to set one up. It can make a big difference.



Naia Edwards, Development Manager

development@tiffingirls.org 020 8546 0773 x 302